

## ALLEY'S SELF HIVER.

Mrs. Sallie E. Sherman writes as follows in reference to her experiment with Alley's Self Hiver in the A. B. J:

On Saturday, March 28, 1891, I placed one of Mr. Alley's Self Hivers at the entrance of a hive from which I knew the bees would swarm in a few days; near this hive was one prepared to receive the swarm when it issued. On Sunday afternoon about 4 o'clock, when walking through the apiary, I saw the bees at work in the new hive. They had swarmed and hived themselves, and were working nicely, without any assistance whatever on my part, except to make the necessary preparations for them. This self-hiver will certainly be a wonderful help to bee-keepers. Mr. Alley, the inventor, should receive the heartfelt thanks of all who are interested in bee-keeping, and something more substantial in the way of our liberal patronage.

By the use of the drone-trap and queen cage combined, which was invented by the same gentleman, I secured 48 swarms out of 49, in 1888, without so much as having to cut a single twig in hiving them.

The above is a further proof that Alley's self-hiver will work well. We are making a large number of them this season and sending them out to various parties. We think our Bee friends are determined to give them a good trial. We have more faith in them than in any particular kind of bees, that will winter irrespective of care or consequences. There are very few of our ordinary bees, that will not winter safely, if properly prepared for winter, and we think there is some risk in paying high prices for queens that are supposed to have some special feature about them, as it is questionable in our opinion whether they possess it or not.

## ROBBER BEES IN SPRING.

Dr. C. C. Miller, writing in *Gleanings* in reference to robbers, says:—

Robbers sometimes "clean out" a weak colony in Spring. Whatever you do, do not take a hive away, that the robbers are at work on. If you do, they will only attack a neighboring colony. Take most of the contents out of the hive, but leave at least one comb with a little honey to finish. If you must take the hive away, put another in its place, with something for the robbers to work on.

We might add to the above that if you wish to take the hive away and will put an empty hive there, and use one of Porters Spring Bee Escapes you will put a damper on their robbing propensities. Leave the bees fooling around in the empty hive until night

and then open it and let them go home just about sundown and they will come to the conclusion that there is very little profit in that kind of business. They won't be caught there more than two days in succession, as that cools off their ardor for robbing. It does not take bees long to become satisfied to get an honest living, and this will do it very readily. Every Bee-keeper should have some of them, because if one or two colonies in a yard begin to rob, it seems to demoralize others, because as they fly to and from the hive they are robbing, they make a peculiar noise that indicates to the other colonies that they have struck a gold mine, and in turn, others commence hunting for honey as well. Now just try this Bee Escape, or any other invention, which will trap them into an empty hive and leave them there all day without anything to eat. Bees have no more desire to be placed in penitentiary for dishonesty any more than human beings have, and while it does not always cure human beings, it has a most salutary effect on bees.

## CHILLED BROOD CANNOT CAUSE FOUL BROOD.

Prof. Cook in *Gleanings* says.—

Chilled brood can no more give rise to foul brood than can la grippe to whooping cough. La grippe might leave an enfeebled condition that could ill bear the shaking up of whooping cough, or *vice versa*. So, chilled brood may imply a weakened state that would find it impossible to resist an attack of foul brood microbes. Chilled brood, then, may open the door for foul brood, but can never cause it.

The spring has opened very auspiciously. Three days of fine weather during soft-maple bloom, even more time given for the bees to extract sweets from hard maple, and now the early fruit bloom is well out. Last night gave us a severe frost. The thermometer registered 18° F. We fear this may play havoc with the fruit crop as well as bloom, and we also dread its effect on the white clover, which is very abundant, and big with promise. Yet we hope some hidden power will make them proof against even such frigidity.

I fully believe that bees are very necessary to a full fruit crop. I hope all will notice, and see whether trees are in bloom only during a time when, from cold or storm, no bees are flying, and note the result. If no fruit sets, while on other trees which bloomed a little earlier or later, and which were freely visited by bees, a full crop of fruit is borne, we shall have an argument that shall even reach our present legislators. Our intelligent fruit men are already convinced. You speak of bees getting honey from peaches not